

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
May 28, 2008; 4:30 p.m.
Council Chambers**

PRESENT

Trena Carter
Ian Kohen
Greg Lewis
Tony McClendon
Gil Palmer
John Roberts
Jason Staley
John Stroh
Pamela Vincent

ABSENT

Akua B. Agyei
Rosalind Pegram
Shiva Rallapalli - volunteer

***** Meeting Called to Order *****

GUESTS PRESENT:

Youth Mobilizers, Kelsi Gower, Maggie McCall, Katelin Nading, Tucker Lang and Coordinator Matt Jackson.

STAFF PRESENT:

Director, Arlette Tinsley, Deputy Director Lorraine Smith, Secretary Lula Young, Summer Temp Mackenzie Skalski.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Commissioner Roberts called roll then requested any corrections or additions to either the March 26 or April 30, 2008 minutes.

Commissioner Stroh moved to accept both minutes as submitted. Commissioner Carter seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Secretary Lula Young reported the donations account balance as of March 26th as \$5,784.21. With expenses and deposits from the annual dinner the current balance as \$7,069.95.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Tinsley provided Commissioners an update regarding BCSC's Director of Diversity, Dawn Palmer, and her report that Peace Learning Center has now completed one program with local high school students. The director also stated she would appreciate receiving feedback from participants and anyone involved with the event.

The Director reviewed the May newsletter she had provided to Commissioners and discussed a Michigan Supreme Court case decision that may have an impact on some of the work being

done in Indiana. She went on to highlight a second case, a traditional tort claim that alleged intentional infliction of emotional distress, including a threat of assault, between an employee and employer in a hospital setting. She informed Commissioners that the complainant had a workforce bully expert testify about workplace bullying. Director Tinsley advised that the term 'workplace bullying' was part of the jury instructions and the court allowed the terminology as a common-sense term. The Director continued to discuss the potential implications on civil rights cases with complainants alleging sexual or racial harassment and the attorney, on behalf of the respondent will rebut with a 'bad boss' defense and that the 'boss' abuses everyone. Discussion Ensued.

Director Tinsley introduced North high school student, Mackenzie Skalski to Commissioners as the summer part-time employee who will be working on the student engagement survey data and putting it into user-friendly form. She informed Commissioners of Mackenzie's background experience in yearbook design and has previous projects of this type.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Youth Mobilizers' Presentation

Director Tinsley advised that both she and Dep. Director Smith had heard the Youth Mobilizers' presentation while attending other board meetings. Dep. Director Smith advised the group had provided an excellent presentation and believed some of the data that came out of that presentation really ties into what Commissioners talk about achieving, such as possibly setting up a youth commission.

Members of Youth Mobilizers, Tucker Lang, Kelsi Gower, Katelin Nading and Maggie McCall presented the results of their surveys and the mission of their group to increase youth voice and involvement for the betterment of Bartholomew County. With the support of coordinator, Matt Jackson, the Mobilizer group provided the results of over 2,200 written, 25 video and 11 adult surveys. Mobilizers explained their overall goals of having non-athletic extra-curricular activities for youth and to have their voices heard by the Vision 20/20 group. Discussion ensued with questions about potential gathering locations and networking with other groups like the Volunteer Action Center; Voun-Teen, Vision 20/20 and BCSC. Maggie McCall informed Commissioners of the group's next project – Youth Venture, sponsored by Ashoka. The global mission is to find a cause and meet the need. She went on to advise that the committee will be named YBBC – Youth for the Betterment of Bartholomew County and their venture will be to create a Youth 'home-base'. Maggie advised they have already obtained a \$1,000 grant from Cummins to launch their venture with the goal of obtaining the Senior Center as their youth home-base. Maggie informed Commissioners of their upcoming presentation at the BCSC Administration Building from 6:00p.m. to 7:15p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Presentation – Columbus Area Ethnic Association (CAEA)

--Initiative of Heritage Fund's Outreach Committee

Director Tinsley informed Commissioners that in her role as a Heritage Fund Board and Outreach Committee member, Deputy Director Smith, has been working very hard with Ryan Hou on the creation of the Columbus Area Ethnic Association (CAEA). Director Tinsley advised that she believed this Committee's efforts are compatible with the Commission's interests so requested Dep. Director Smith to share her presentation with Commissioners.

Deputy Director Smith provided an overview of her position as a Heritage Fund board member and stated that one purpose of the Outreach Committee is to look at welcoming community issues and is utilizing the previous Welcoming Community Study. The creation of the **CAEA** is the idea of the Outreach Committee and the association is to be a conduit for many different

ethnic groups in Columbus. The committee is still reviewing the appropriateness of the word 'Ethnic' as part of the Association's name.

Deputy Director Smith advised that invitations were sent to more than 25 members of the African-American community to attend a presentation on the **CAEA** initiative. The Deputy Director shared her PowerPoint presentation that outlined the mission, aim and purpose of the **CAEA** to provide a forum for ethnic associations to develop and coordinate programs while providing a structure for organizing and promoting cultural and ethnic activities of a non-political and non-religious nature. She went on to share an outline of the membership policy, benefits to the community and the role of **CAEA** in addressing the issues identified within the African-American community and the role that **CAEA** take in addressing recommendations. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Carter moved that the remaining items on the Agenda be tabled until the next full commission meeting. Commissioner Roberts seconded. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Carter moved to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Stroh seconded. Meeting adjourned.